

Museum Quarterly Report January – March 2002

Overview

Staff implemented the new charge for the Museum. After a comparison between the former donation box and the new admission system, we determined that we are ahead in revenue for this first quarter. The exhibit “The Struggle for Suffrage: Idaho Women Fight for the Right to Vote” was up during the month of March. Staff continues to work on the J. Curtis Earl exhibit, scheduled to open Memorial Day weekend. The Museum hosted the Society’s annual Legislative reception.

Personnel

Fran Frye resigned her limited service position on January 25 for a permanent position in the private sector.

Fred Schmidt, Museum Technician, gave his resignation on February 12 and ended his employment with the Society on February 15.

John Dadabay was hired on January 28 to work on the J. Curtis Earl exhibit.

Gifts and Donations

We had 18 donations in the past quarter.

We received an outstanding gift from Lawrence Sirhall Sr., the Inaugural Ball Gown of Mrs. James H. Hawley (Elizabeth), wife of Governor Hawley.

Exhibits and Traveling Trunks

The Lewis & Clark traveling trunks were popular with a variety of educational facilities this past quarter, traveling to Post Falls, Hailey, Id. Falls, Coeur d’ Alene, Lewiston, Notus, Twin Falls, Black Foot and Sandpoint. With several schools in the Boise and surrounding areas also scheduled the trunks this quarter.

The traveling exhibits traveled to Idaho Falls and several local areas. Raices Historica will begin

traveling in April and will continue through October of this year.

The Capitol traveling trunks are also being scheduled. They have traveled to Post Falls and Wendell as well as local outreach programs.

Travel

Ken Swanson- Eagle High School and Meridian Charter High School.

Gary Keith-Eagle High School, Meridian Charter High School and Meridian Academy

Jody Ochoa-

1/7- Murphy to advise Owyhee County Historical Society

2/21- Payette to advise Payette County Historical Society

3/4- Hagerman to advise the Hagerman Historical Society

Kris Major- Kuna, Nampa, Meridian, Midvale and Payette
Audra Sims, Marva and Susan- Meridian

Out-of-State
None this quarter

Events at the Museum this quarter

1/8 Brown Bag-Marilyn Shuler-Our Complex Past: A Look at Human Rights in Idaho.

1/8 Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation

1/19 Lewis & Clark meeting-Keith Peterson

1/22 Awareness Training

1/26 Land Trust meeting

1/29 Awareness Training

2/2 Friends meeting

2/12 Brown Bag- James B. Weatherby: Idaho's Sales Tax Politics

2/15 National Association of Social Workers

2/18 Legislative reception

2/20 Boise City Public Works

3/12 Slide Show-S. Utah Wilderness

3/12 Brown Bag-Sharon Tandy: Historic Quilts of Idaho (1825-1990).

Upcoming Events at the Museum

4/6 IAM-Idaho Association of Museums annual meeting 4/9

Brown Bag-Nature Conservancy Staff: The Nature of Conservancy of Idaho: A History of Conservation

4/11 History Day reception

4/19-21 Mini Les Bois

5/11 First Printed Book-Horace Axtel and Margo Aragon-Translating the
Oldest Book Printed in Idaho (From Nez Perce to English)

5/11 Civil War Ladies- (Adelman house) 5/14 Brown Bag-
Charles E. Lauterbach: Jolly Della Pringle: Queen of the Western American Stage

6/8 & 9 Muerleus Unidas (Women United)

Education Program

Budget

There have been no changes to the budget this quarter.

Personnel

Jacquie Bair began a student internship in January as the Idaho history Day assistant coordinator. Her position will last through the spring semester of Boise State University.

A volunteer informational and recruitment fair was held on January 30 at the Old Penitentiary. Society needs for volunteers at the Old Pen, Capitol, Museum, and Library and Archives were discussed with current and prospective volunteers.

Programs

The informal education committee has been transformed into the more formal "Education Enhancement Group". Led by Kris Major, the EEG operates under the supervision of the Historic Sites Division of the ISHS, but consists of representatives of all agency work groups. The purpose of the EEG is to continue the quality educational programs and interpretation at the Old Idaho Penitentiary, the Capitol Education Center, and the Idaho State Museum; to coordinate ISHS outreach programs; and to be the lead group in the training and recognition of Society volunteers. Meetings are held at the Museum the first Thursday of every month.

The spring educational programs at the Museum are underway. Volunteers were trained and scheduled to run this year's marionette program and hands-on activity stations. In addition to Museum volunteer training, weekly training sessions for the Old Penitentiary interpretive volunteers were also held in February. A fun and informative field trip to the Canyon county Historical Museum and the War Hawk Museum in Nampa in March helped interpretive volunteers from the Capitol, Old Pen, and Museum see what programs other area museums were doing.

The Treasure Valley regional Idaho History Day contest was held in Boise on March 2. Over 300 students advanced from the six regional competitions held throughout Idaho in March to the state competition that will be held at BSU on April 12.

Will Spearman has been contracted with to update the Old Penitentiary walking tour guide. The guide has been out of print for almost a year. With a few updates and a better map, the new guide will again be a revenue source for the site.

Plans are still being finalized for the July summer teachers' institute on "Teaching with Historic Places". Teachers have been selected and the facility arrangements are being made at Idaho State University. This institute, funded by the IHC, will involve 20 teachers and take place in Pocatello with field trips to Lava Hot Springs and Chesterfield.

Kris Major is serving on the planning committee for an on-line encyclopedia for Idaho. Sponsored by the University of Idaho and the Idaho Humanities Council, the first of three meetings was held in Boise late March.

The first broadcast of the ISHS Distance Learning Program. "Old Stories Told New Ways" took place in January. Ken Swanson presented a one-hour program on the history of the military in southern Idaho. Though the class was small (one teacher in Twin Falls), it helped us refine the program and better prepare for the next broadcast, which will take place April 18. That program will be given by Larry Jones and be broadcast to teachers in the Pocatello area. Boise and Meridian teachers have been invited to attend the live, on-site portion of the broadcast from the J.R. Williams Building in Boise.

Historic Sites

All needed materials for Rock Creek Store have been purchased and at first opportunity we will finish the porch and install the chinking.

We are still waiting for the contractor to correct some of the "punch card" items on the horse barn slate re-roofing.

Department of Lands is collecting input from all users at the Old Pen site for current and projected usage of water, to pass on to Department of Water Resources.

Final approval has been received from ITD for our project document for the Franklin Visitor Interpretative Center. Milan will submit plans to building safety for their approval of structural, electrical and plumbing for the site.

ERG engineering was hired March 28, by ITD to do the Gold Rush Historic Byway master plan that will include information on the Pierce courthouse.

Old Idaho Penitentiary State Historic Site

Visitation

This quarter the Old Idaho Penitentiary had 2603 visitors.

Media

On January 28, Jon Miller from KTVG- Channel 7 featured Old Penitentiary volunteer Orville "Red" Warner in a new story. Miller interviewed Red in the Transportation Exhibit and invited viewers to come visit Red on Mondays and Fridays.

Interpretation

Sixteen educational groups with a total of 505 students and chaperones participated in interpretive programs.

Personnel

In February, Ray Smith resigned his position as the Saturday receptionist. Joe Lindsey, who worked at the Old Idaho Penitentiary from spring 2000 to summer 2001, has returned and taken his place.

Volunteers

This quarter thirteen volunteers donated 319 hours of their time to the Old Idaho Penitentiary.

State Capitol

Personnel

New volunteers this quarter include Susan Kempton (1/28/02), Pat Hazard (2/19/02) and Marie Gummerson (2/22/02).

Volunteers

Capitol has eight active volunteers doing tours, research, and program design. This quarter we had a total of 157 volunteers hours.

Media

The Idaho Statesman ran two articles with photos regarding Boy Scout tours and local school groups visiting the Capitol.

Special Events

The History Caucus presentation was on February 11.

Special Requests

Kris Major asked Audra to assist with Regional History Day on March 2. Audra also helped Jody with Lewis and Clark grant proposal.

Things you'd like to brag about

January 31, the Distance Learning broadcast from JR Williams to College of S. Idaho, with Ken Swanson being the presenter on Military History of S. Idaho.

January 16, The Oregon Trail virtual tour on interactive computer was at the Statehouse.

Community Support

Jim Corey of Eagle high school and Honors American government program had one of his students, Carly Wantulok, intern during legislative session.

Audra gave special programs for the following State legislators Senator Stennet, Senator Dunklin, Senator Marley, Senator Wheeler, Representative Black and Representative Higgins.

Tour Numbers

January-	1,014
February-	2,071
March-	2,591
Total	5,676

Misc.

Donation deposit account opened January 17 with \$136.25.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kenneth J. Swanson
Administrator
Idaho State Historical Museum
And sites